

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: February 15, 2018

Agenda Item: 2018-2019 Biennial Quota Ranges

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 Min

Background

FWP is seeking Commission approval for the 2018-2019 quota ranges for limited entry licenses and permits. These quota ranges are adopted by the Commission biennially during the regular season-setting cycle. Biologists and managers do not need Commission approval to make changes to license/permit quotas that are within the adopted range. Changes outside adopted ranges require Commission approval. This greatly expedites and simplifies annual quota adjustments. These quotas represent authority and limits to the number of licenses/permits that may be offered by FWP. Biologists often make final within-range quota adjustments after scheduled Commission meetings but before licenses and permits are drawn. For example, biologists do not complete antelope surveys until mid to late July and sometimes wish to adjust license numbers based on their findings, but need to do so before licenses are drawn in early August.

A table of the 654 different licenses and permits for which there are quota ranges is in the Commission packet.

Public Involvement Process & Results

Public comment ran from Dec. 7 to Jan. 24, and we received 509 comments. All are included in the Commission Packet, but none spoke to FWP quota ranges, and all spoke to wolf management, the vast majority to management near Yellowstone National Park. Commenters apparently misunderstood what FWP quota ranges are.

Alternatives and Analysis

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2017 (status quo). Not adopting these quota ranges would necessitate Commission approval for all quota adjustments, which are sometimes desired just before licenses are drawn.

Proposed Motion

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission adopt the 2018 and 2019 biennial quota ranges as proposed by FWP.